DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VIII NO. 13 JUL 17 1959 June 19th 1959 Price: 15 Pf, 5c., 3d.

NEW BERLIN PLAN

Year's Standstill Proposed for Two German States to Work Things Out

(from "Daily Express", London)

BIG-BOOTS ADENAUER

The powers should give themselves a one-year's pause to reach agreement on the West Berlin problem and the question of a peace treaty with Germany and reunification, the Soviet and Democratic German delegates to the Geneva Conference proposed on June 11th.

The proposals, made in an attempt to break the threatening deadlock at the conference, were tabled by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Democratic Germany's Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz at a full session of the Foreign Minister's Conference.

Here are the main points of the new proposals:

I. The German Question

a. The two German states should establish an All-German Commission on the basis of parity.

b. This commission would have the task of extending the contacts between the two German states, discussing steps towards German reunification, and preparing the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

c. To prevent a long postponement of the conclusion of a peace treaty, this commission should be given one year in which to reach agreement on the questions connected with the peace treaty.

d. If the western powers or West Germany should obstruct agreement on a peace treaty, the Soviet Union and other states which fought against Germany would be forced to conclude a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic.

II. The West Berlin Question

A temporary recognition of the occupation rights of the western

(cont. on next page)

powers in West Berlin would be possible on the following conditions:

a. The western powers should reduce their forces in West Berlin to a symbolic figure.

b. All hostile propaganda against the German Democratic Republic and the other socialist countries, at present emanating from West Berlin, should be stopped.

c. All espionage organisations in West Berlin operating against the German Democratic Republic and the socialist countries should be liquidated.

d. The western powers would give an undertaking not to station rockets or nuclear weapons in West Berlin.

e. If agreement can be reached on the above four points, the Soviet Union will maintain, in their present form, the communications between West Berlin and the outside world.

f. The four powers should establish a commisson to supervise the fulfillment of an agreement on the lines here outlined.

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The Soviet Foreign Minister stated that if the western powers would not agree to this minimum programme for West Berlin for a transitional period of one year, then the Soviet Union could not agree to a continuation of occupation rights in West Berlin.

Mr Gromyko stated that in its new proposals, the Soviet Government was endeavouring to provide a basis for bringing the standpoints of the interested states nearer together, and thus contribute to the success of the conference.

Dr Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, stressed that the new proposals had been worked out jointly by the Soviet Government and the Government of the German Democratic Republic. "Why was it necessary to lay down a term of one year for agreement?" Dr Bolz asked. "Because of the danger that endless negotiations would delay agreement, and that in the meantime the nuclear armament of West Germany would go ahead, thus increasing tension in Germany. Extremist circles should be given no opportunity to utilise never-ending negotiations as a camouflage for a continuation of their dangerous policy.

Western delegates to the conference described the new proposals made by the Soviet Union and Democratic Germany as "completely unacceptable", but in the conference session on June 12th British Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd pointed out that there was in fact a large measure of agreement between East and West on some features of the Berlin question.

Mr Selwyn Lloyd said that there was at least verbal agreement between the two sides on the following points:

1. The right of the West Berliners to choose a social system of their own liking.

2. Free access to West Berlin for persons, good and services.

In addition, said Mr Selwyn Lloyd, the West had made the following offers in an effort to meet the Soviet viewpoint:

1. Freezing of allied garrisons in West Berlin, and possibly a reduction of garrisons.

2. Banning of subversive activities in Berlin which interfered with public order or undermined the rights of others.

3. Possible changes in functions connected with access to Berlin.

INTERNATIONAL PROBE AIRED

An international commission should be established to investigate the armies in both German states, a spokesman of Democratic Germany proposed on June 5th.

The proposal was made by Professor Albert Norden, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party at a press conference in Berlin. Such a commission, he said, could be composed largely of representatives of the nations overrun by the nazis. It should study the stage reached by remilitarisation in West Germany, and the past records of the men who command the West German Wehrmacht. The Government of the German Democratic Republic would grant such a commission all facilities to study the anti-militarist and democratic nature of the People's Army in the German Democratic Republic.

The hundreds of journalists from all parts of the world who attended the press conference then saw the world premiere of a new documentary film "The Heusinger Case", dealing with the past record of Adolf Heusinger, formerly Hitler's Chief of Operations, who is today Inspector General of the West German Wehrmacht. The film produced hitherto unpublished evidence that Heusinger had betrayed to the Gestapo some of the anti-Hitler leaders involved in the attempt on Hitler's life made on July 20th 1944.

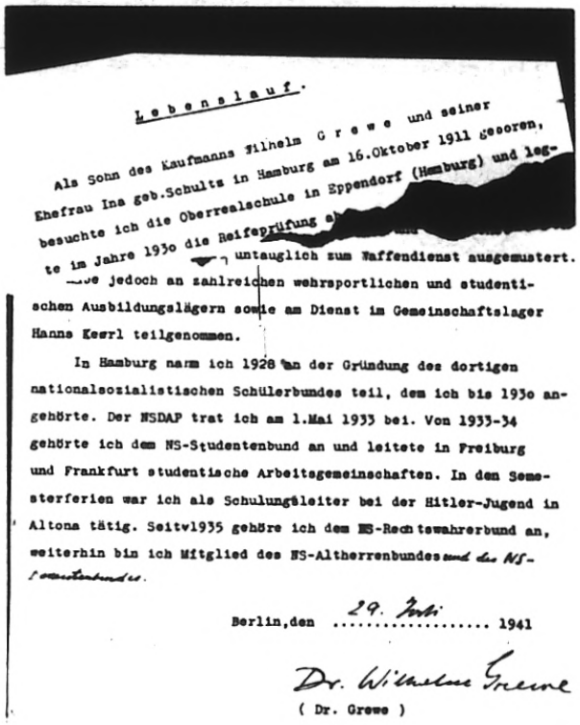
Nazi War Criminal Commands Luftwaffe Jet Squad

A convicted nazi war criminal has been named commander of West Germany's first jet fighter squadron. He is Major Erich Hartmann, who was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for war crimes by a Soviet court, but amnestied in 1955.

During the Second World War Hartmann was Hitler's favourite fighter ace with an alleged 352 air victories on the Eastern Front. He was one of the 27 holders of Hitler's second-highest medal, the "Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Laurel Wreaths, Swords and Diamonds." In his new command Major Hartmann will have under his control 42 Canadian-built Sabre VI jets.

(A number of other key officers of the West German Wehrmacht also served war criminal sentences. They include General Friedrich Foertsch, sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, today Deputy Chief of Staff, Planning, at NATO HQ, and General Heinrich Hax, also sentenced to 25 years, today Deputy Commander of the 3rd Corps of the West German Wehrmacht.)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A WEST GERMAN DIPLOMAT



Lebenslauf.

Als Sohn des Kaufmanns Wilhelm G r e w e und seiner Ehefrau Ina geb.Schultz in Hamburg am 16.Oktober 1911 geboren, besuchte ich die Oberrealschule in Eppendorf (Hamburg) und legte im Jahre 1930 die Reifeprüfung ab.

[illegible] untauglich zum Waffendienst ausgemustert. [illegible] jedoch an zahlreichen wehrsportlichen und studentischen Ausbildungslägern sowie am Dienst im Gemeinschaftslager Hanns Kerrl teilgenommen.

In Hamburg nahm ich 1928 an der Gründung des dortigen nationalsozialistischen Schülerbundes teil, dem ich bis 1930 angehörte. Der NSDAP trat ich am 1.Mai 1933 bei. Von 1933-34 gehörte ich dem NS-Studentenbund an und leitete in Freiburg und Frankfurt studentische Arbeitsgemeinschaften. In den Semesterferien war ich als Schulungsleiter bei der Hitler-Jugend in Altona tätig. Seit 1935 gehöre ich dem NS-Rechtswahrerbund an, weiterhin bin ich Mitglied des NS-Altherrenbundes und des NS-[illegible]bundes.

Berlin, den 29. Juli 1941

Dr. Wilhelm Grewe

(Dr. Grewe)

Professor Wilhelm Grewe, West German Ambassador in Washington, and West German representative at the Geneva Conference, once wrote a short autobiographical note when applying for promotion at Berlin University.

We reproduce above two paragraphs from this autobiography. Here is a translation:

Born on October 16th 1911 in Hamburg as son of the merchant Wilhelm Grewe and his wife Ina nee Schulz, I attended the grammar school in Eppendorf (Hamburg) and matriculated in 1930 ... I was found unfit for active military service, but participated in many military-sport and student training camps ...

In Hamburg I participated in the foundation of the National Socialist Scholars' League in 1928, and was a member until 1930. I joined the Nazi Party on May 1st 1933. From 1933-34 I was a member of the National Socialist Students League, and conducted student study groups in Freiburg and Frankfurt. During vacation I acted as education officer for the Hitler Youth in Altona. I have been a member of the National Socialist Jurists League since 1935, and I am also member of the National Socialist Altherrenbund, and the National Socialist League of University Teachers.

Berlin July 29th 1941.
(Signed) Dr Wilhelm Grewe

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The photostat on the right shows the title-page of the "Magazine of the Academy for German Law" for January 1st 1937. The slogan of the magazine printed under the wings of the eagle runs "German Law for the German People Through National Socialism".

This issue of the magazine features an article by Dr Wilhelm Grewe entitled "Armed Preparedness and Constitutional Law – A Commentary on Defence Legislation in Czechoslovakia and Poland".

(More information on the checkered past of Dr Grewe may be found in GERMAN REPORT, May 8th 1959)

"GHOSTS BACK" - W. German Newspaper

The old nazis are on their way back, the influential Social Democratic newspaper "Neue Rheinzeitung" warned on June 2nd. Here are some of the main points made by the newspaper in a long article:

"Some of them are already there again: some of the SS men, concentration camp guards, and men with the Gold Medal of the Nazi Party are opening their mouths again. We cannot speak of an acute right-radical fascist danger — not yet. But we must warn while there is still time. Today there are only symptoms: but tomorrow these symptoms could develop into a system.

"Let us consider, first of all, the nazi pensioners: we do not mean the minor nazi party members, we mean the leaders, the people who surrounded Hitler and who helped him to power.

"Just a few names: Franz Schlegelberger, who was Hitler's Secretary of State for Justice, gets a monthly pension of over 2000 marks (nearly £200); Ernst Lautz who was prosecutor in the People's Court and who drove uncounted people to their

death, gets a pension; Herr Helmuth Schranz, M.P. of the German Party, who served as nazi mayor of Offenbach, has had the insolence to go to law to claim a fat pension. Individual cases? Symptoms?

"Let us think of the second category, the individualist barbarians who have done so much to sully our democratic name by shouting their hatred of our Jewish compatriots. There is the case of the teacher Zind in Offenburg, the merchant Nieland in North Germany, and the editor Kremer in Berlin. Individual cases? Symptoms?

"But there are also organised attempts to revive radical nationalism, even if not National Socialism, as rallying points for Hitler's spiritual heirs. Is it not time to ask why 70,000 young people in the Federal Republic are members of right-wing radical groups? 70,000 young people belong to groups with names like 'Young Steel Helmet', 'Viking League', 'Reich Youth' ...

"And then there are parties which are obviously not engaged in strengthening democracy, but rather in decking themselves in nationalist feathers. The German Reich Party, after its success in Rheinland-Pfalz, will put up candidates in Bremen and Hesse; in Bavaria the 'Refugee Party' has formed the 'National Democratic Union', as a right-wing coalition against the democratic parties.

"This listing is by no means complete, but it shows that attention will have to be paid to these centres of right extremism."

(GERMAN REPORT comments: "This West German paper is quite right in drawing attention to the activities of extreme right-wing groupings: but it ignores the nazi renaissance in the state machinery of West Germany — a Wehrmacht exclusively staffed by Hitler's officers, a judiciary largely staffed by Hitler's judges, a Foreign Ministry largely staffed by Hitler's diplomats.)

FOUR SPIES SPILL BEANS

Four men who had engaged for years in espionage activities against Democratic Germany told of their activities and why they had decided to quit them at an international press conference held in East Berlin early in June. The stories, backed up by an impressive number of names, addresses and other details, demonstrated the uses to which West Berlin is put by the espionage services of West Germany and of the Western Powers.

Erwin Zeske, 40, for example, told how he had been recruited by American secret agents in 1954, his family had been brought to Frankfurt (Main) and how, after a "training period", he had been flown twice a month for 3 or 4 days in an American army plane to West Berlin. His job was to make contacts with citizens of the German Democratic Republic. The main method was to visit "refugees" in West Berlin and to get names from them of acquaintances who worked in important factories or in government jobs in Democratic Germany and then to invite them to West Berlin in the name of their acquaintance. They were then promised money if they "cooperated"; otherwise, they were told that their names would be sent to their police as "spies". More than a few fell for this trick.

Another ex-spy, Herr Hellmann, who worked for the French Sureté, reported that French espionage was especially concerned with the fields of production and foreign trade in Democratic Germany and with connections between the churches of Eastern and Western Germany.

Willi Scheibe, who had worked for the British secret service 12th BIS (Berlin Intelligence Staff), had largely been entrusted with collecting and reading letters sent to West Berlin from people in the German Democratic Republic. Before they were resealed and sent to their destinations, all letters of any possible interest were photostated. He also had the job of listening to telephone conversations. Along with about 30 other employees, they checked especially on conversations of journalists from German and foreign newspapers such as United Press International and Agence France Presse.

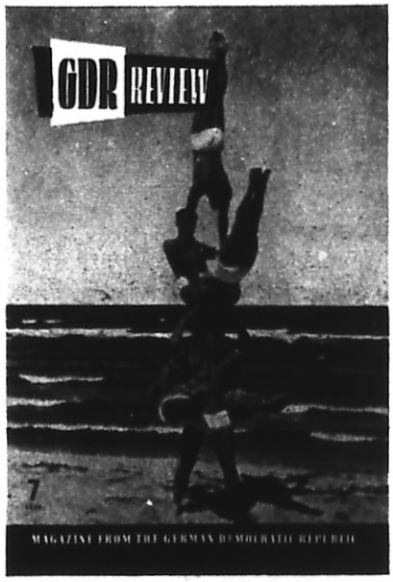
The fourth man presented at the conference, Ernst Schwarzwaeller, had worked for the West German intelligence service, not only against Democratic Germany but also Poland as well.

On June 7th the East Berlin newspaper "Berliner Zeitung" published two full pages giving the addresses of hundreds of spy centres in West Berlin. The listing included the names, addresses and telephone numbers of many scores of full-time agents of the British, American, French and West German intelligence networks, plus the addresses of dozens of apartments used for cloak-and-dagger meeting with spies.

No Denial

"No one seriously attempts to deny the fact that the West conducts extensive and profitable anti-Communist propaganda and intelligence activities from West Berlin. The intelligence chief who did not use such a base, 100 miles within Communist territory, would not deserve his job."

("New York Times", June 7th 1959)



FREE MAGAZINE OFFER

Muscle-men from a factory sports group in the German Democratic Republic are the cover-boys on the front of the July issue of "GDR Review", pocket magazine published in Democratic Germany.

"GDR Review" appears monthly in English, French, Swedish and Spanish.

A free trial copy of the magazine, and details on how to subscribe, will be sent on application to:

GDR Review
Verlag Zeit im Bild
Bergmannstrasse 46
Dresden A 19
German Democratic Republic

SUNDAY OUT IN E. BERLIN

By Allen Mann

Regardless of all the tense discussions on Berlin in the world today, East Berlin's nearly mile-long Stalin Allee was host to hundreds of thousands of visitors on a hot Sunday in early June. Strolling, chatting, looking at the sights and, more than anything else, eating and drinking, the Berliners didn't seem to have a worry in the world.

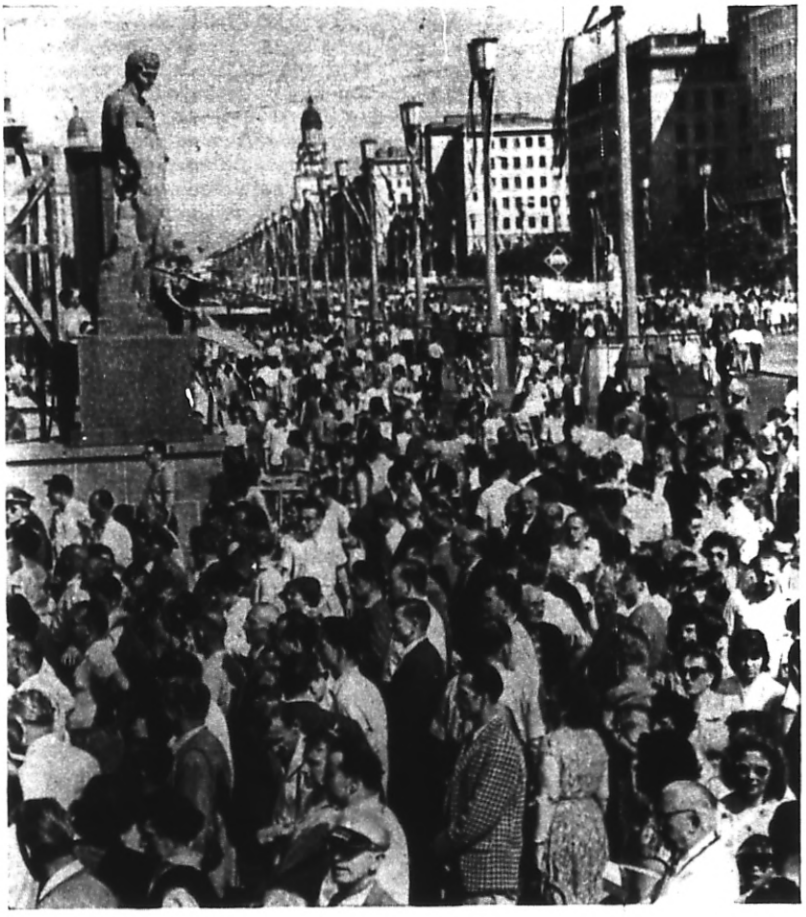
The occasion was the annual newspaper festival sponsored by "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party. The idea of such a festival comes, I believe, from the French Communist newspaper "L'Humanité" and has been adopted by the newspapers in all of the fifteen districts of Democratic Germany. The biggest festival is, of course, in Berlin.

The architecture of the Stalin Allee is still a topic for argument here, but the long lines of buildings — which replaced bombed-out pre-war tenements — certainly formed an impressive backdrop for the festival. Bunting, all kinds of decorations and stands and, of course, the people themselves in summer dresses and shirt sleeves, provided colour to this white background.

After leaving the underground station and lowering my eyes from the overall picture, my first impression was of people eating — hot dogs, shashlik grilled on a stick, ice cream and many other delicacies, including a Chinese food specialty resembling ravioli and offered with make-shift chopsticks. I then noticed that thirst soon asserted itself after such foods; people swarmed around stands selling gallons of beer, milk drinks, "Koko" — a new, rather disappointing version of Coca-Cola — and a much tastier natural pineapple drink.

Also conspicuous were the foot-long German cucumbers, brought in fresh from the farms by caravans of trucks that morning and thousands of many-coloured hula-hoops, now rotating their way madly through Democratic Germany after a bit of a time-lag.

The wide sidewalks were lined with exhibits of all kinds; each of the socialist countries had decorated one block with posters, placards, blown-up photographs and models showing aspects of their life, culture and economy. The sputniks were there in original size — also an interesting exhibit of modern Polish poster art.



The main exhibits, however, were those organised by the fifteen districts of the country. The coastal district of Rostock showed models of all the ship-types built there since ship-building began after 1945; also the varieties of tinned fish processed in its port cities. A stand just a few paces further sold fried fish to people not yet overloaded with sausage; this lent, if not a nautical, certainly a very penetrating seafood aroma to the surroundings.

Across the boulevard the district of Potsdam, which surrounds most of Berlin, demonstrated the fact that it supplies the capital's milk and vegetables with a huge Berlin bear drinking from a bottle and with exhibits of fruits and vegetables — plus an especially large number of stands selling milk drinks.

Most of the exhibits from the districts were industrial in nature. One ponderous scraper from a shovel used in scraping up soft coal (lignite) symbolised the industry which is the basis of Democratic Germany's economy. A line of cars came from the auto town of Eisenach — they ranged from a 1908 model to the latest "Wartburg" sport car. Full-scale models of a section in a mine and of an atomic reactor were also points of interest, as were the eighteen live minks from the largest mink farm in Europe in Schwerin.

The exhibit from Erfurt District in Thuringia was quite different. There were also the usual industrial products, but more space was devoted to Goethe and Schiller, the two poets who lived at Weimar, now in this district, and the largest area was occupied by replicas, reduced in size, of the tower and two groups of statues from the large memorial recently completed on the site of the

concentration camp of Buchenwald. This added a solemn note to a grassy square just a little removed from the crowded boulevard.

Past shadows were not forgotten, but neither were the prospects for the future; a little park was reserved for the children, who were cared for by more than a hundred kindergarten teachers and students. They supervised at arts and crafts tables where children of all ages could paint, scribble, make gliders or flower baskets, according to age and temperament. Others took part in a quiz contest and in a thrilling tricycle race which was only temporarily interrupted when a three-year-old hopeful was disqualified for speeding across the track diagonally and in the wrong direction.

As for the adults, there was also something going on all the time — almost every corner had its open-air stage. There were fashion shows, demonstrations of gymnastics, judo and a trapeze act. There were all kinds of choral and dance groups, including guest ensembles from Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union. Then there was a jazz combo, and, of course, the comedians, whose humour was not much improved by the hot sun. The crowds took everything in good-naturedly, stayed to watch something if it proved interesting or strolled further if it didn't.

There were also many of the "teddy-boy", zoot-suit element, frequently armed with portable radios, their trade mark, but in general they behaved themselves quite well — when they got too fresh they were usually told off quietly but firmly by those standing nearby.

Then, at 9:00 p.m., after the heat had finally let up, the central cultural programme began. Here was the best of the day's entertainment, including several choral works, a fine Soviet folk dance featuring an amazing human carousel, a Chinese lantern dance and a mass demonstration of the new dance step called the "Lipsi", a short ballet scene and that wonderful little children's song "Black and White" by the American composer Earl Robinson.

Then, at 11:00, came a big fireworks display. There was supposed to be open-air dancing afterwards but it didn't materialise somehow (it never really seems to here in Germany); however, even without this more Parisian tradition, the Press Festival was certainly a great success — I only hope that the combination of sausage, shashlik, cucumbers and soft drinks plus the first tryouts with new hula hoops did not cause too many unpleasant aftermaths.

Earl Robinson Comes To Town

By our Music Correspondent

When a lanky six-foot Westerner appeared on the stage of the State Opera House on the Unter den Linden recently, he didn't really need Hanns Eisler to introduce him to the audience. Nearly everyone there already knew his face, his music and his voice from a film he and Paul Robeson made specially for the GDR. And those few who didn't know his face or even his name almost certainly knew the first song he ever wrote, a song which has become a sort of international folk song — *Joe Hill.*

Earl Robinson was in East Berlin to conduct the main work in a programme of new American music given in the Opera House on May 22nd. This was his *The Lonesome Train,* a cantata on Abraham Lincoln written in 1942. It was the first German performance although it has of course been played many times in the United States. Earl Robinson also sang a number of songs, including three of his own compositions, *Black and White, Free and Equal Blues* ('everyone's the same when he's got his skin off, that's the free and equal blues') and *Joe Hill.* He also sang a song written by Hanns Eisler when he was an anti-nazi refugee in the USA called *Sweet Liberty Land* which Eisler had forgotten he ever wrote.

The other works on the program were comparatively unknown. Among them were Serge Hovey's *Robert Burns Rhapsody,* which is based on old Scottish and Hebridean folk melodies, and a selection from the late Robert Kurka's suite, *The Good Soldier Schweik,* which incidentally is taken from his opera which will go on at the Komische Oper and the Dresden Opera House next season.

The last work on the programme was *The Lonesome Train.* The theme that binds Earl Robinson's music on Abraham Lincoln's funeral train together is a 'lonesome train on a lonesome track, seven coaches painted black'. This cantata tells of the journey of the funeral train from Washington where Lincoln was shot through various states to its destination of Springfeld, Illinois, his home town.

The concert was given by the Radio Berlin Chorus and Orchestra and marked a step forward in USA-GDR cultural relations as the ovation which greeted Earl Robinson at the end of his cantata showed. It was certainly one of the biggest ovations accorded anyone since the Opera House reopened and was a tribute not only to Earl Robinson the composer, but also to Earl Robinson the man.

OLD AGE NO TERROR

By Mary Wolfard

"Complaints?" said the old lady. "Yes. I've got a complaint. I'm putting on too much weight!"

And she tenderly patted her rear rather like an indulgent grandmother patting the head of a mischievous child.

"We're all getting a bit fat here."

"Here" was not anatomical but referred to a home for elderly people in Gera in the German Democratic Republic. I'd put the question rather as a matter of routine than because I thought that the people living there were likely to have any complaints. It was so pleasant, so bright and clean. Much more like a quiet modern hotel than my preconceived notion of an old people's home.

As we pushed through the swing doors of this new two-storey building we found ourselves in a carpeted entry lounge in which three elderly men were sitting chatting in armchairs around a coffee-table. One, a sprightly gray-haired man, jumped up to ask us what he could do for us. He introduced himself as Herr Daniel and when we told him we were reporters and would like to see over the home, he offered to call the sister in charge as the director was out.

That would be fine, we said, but first would he allow us to put a few questions from the financial angle?

He told us that with one or two exceptions, all those living there — who by the way were between 70 and 90 — were receiving pensions of at least 134 marks a month and some were getting as much as 278 a month. The odd exceptions were people who never had been insured in pre-war Germany. The government paid their

expenses and gave them 48 marks a month pocket money into the bargain.

The pensioners paid 69 marks a month for their accommodation, 3 good meals a day, cleaning, heating, lighting, all laundry, medical care and the use of the many facilities provided by the home.

This sounded a fantastic lot to us for just over 2 marks a day. Perhaps — complaints of weight-gaining notwithstanding — the food was a bit skimpy. Could we see the menu? We certainly could and I noted down a day's typical fare. There was the usual continental breakfast of bread, butter, marmelade and coffee. The midday meal was soup, pork, dumplings and stewed fruit. There was afternoon coffee at four and a supper of sausages, bread, butter and tea.

It was while I was noting this down that the sister in charge, impeccable, in a white apron, came up. She was a friendly soul of about fifty who was obviously on the best of terms with all her elderly charges.

As we commented on the menus, she told us that these are drawn up by the residents through an elected kitchen commission which is just one of the bodies that manage the home's affairs.

We were just outside the dining room and so we started our tour of inspection from there. It was a spacious bright room with large windows looking out on the garden. Glass tops covered the coloured table cloths which harmonized with the upholstered dining chairs. "Comfort's very important to old bones", said sister.

On one side were the kitchens and store rooms which, like the whole place, were spotlessly clean. We asked the white-aproned kitchen maids how many people worked in the home. "Twenty" they said. Twenty people to look after 130 residents. But the pensioners like to do a bit for themselves. They help clear the tables after meals and wipe the table tops. They like to be useful.

We recrossed the dining room and pulled back the immense folding doors which shut off the television room. Armchairs upholstered in reds, blues, yellows and black were arranged in rows. It was like a miniature and unusually comfortable cinema.

"Sometimes this room is used as a stage and the dining room as an auditorium", the sister explained. Amateur groups come and perform for the pensioners and occasionally we get professionals in. And when we have dances, the band sits here.

"Dances?"

"Yes. Dances!" Her eyes glittered with pleasure at our surprise. "Our people may be getting on in years, but they still like a good dance. Why the belle of the ball at our last carnival was 88 years old."

This seemed to me typical of the whole atmosphere of the home. There was no feeling of resignation, of waiting for death.

We asked to see some of the pensioners' rooms. Usually two share a room although there are single rooms for those who prefer to be on their own, sister told us. There are quite a number of married couples and we knocked on the door of one. He was reading the paper and she was busy knitting for her grandchild. The furniture of all the rooms is standard and contemporary: two divans, a table and chairs, two wardrobes, a washbasin with hot and cold running water — but each room bears the stamp of the owner in the arrangement of the furniture, the pictures and the personal possessions with which people always like to surround themselves.

In addition to the private rooms, residents have the use of bathrooms, kitchens for such minor operations as making tea, a sewing room, and a series of lounges.

They also have the use of medical equipment for ray therapy and so on and a doctor looks in daily. There is even a small sick bay.

"Now let's look at the garden", sister proposed. "As it's such a lovely day, I wouldn't be surprised if our card-players aren't out on the terrace." And sure enough, three grey-haired men and one white-haired old lady (she's 86, sister whispered) were so engrossed, they didn't even notice us as we passed by.

Bending over the flower beds, pulling out the weeds was another pensioner. "We decided to do the garden ourselves" she explained. "First we save the gardener's wages, and second, a bit of exercise is good for us. And then it's so lovely here."

And indeed it was. Broad lawns and shady trees. Park benches along the paths, and even a grass stage for open-air shows in the summer.

Our gardener was typical of all the pensioners. They regard the place as theirs. An old lady of 79 with a beaming and earnest face put it this way: "I'm trying to think of some way to thank the government and the people here who have provided all this for us. Not only our wonderful home, but on top of it all, the new pension increase of 10 marks a month."

But of course the boot's on the other foot. This is society's thank-you to them for a life of labour for the community.

FRENCH JOURNALIST LOOKS

French journalist Michel Bosquet took a nine-day trip through the German Democratic Republic recently, and reported on his experience in the Paris "L'Express" on May 28th. Here are some of the points which he made in his article:

"Like all western visitors, I came to the German Democratic Republic with a number of pre-conceptions. I was surprised ... The people whom I met by chance spoke openly with me, and sometimes I tried to get them to talk more softly, because I was worried for them. The regime was, in the beginning, artificial (how could it have been otherwise after 12 years of fascism?), but it has understood how to couple compulsion with convincement and promises.

"And the promises were not empty promises. When one reaches the Democratic Sector of Berlin, one is not surprised by the poverty, but by the mass of consumer goods and the lack of luxury. The difference between the two parts of Berlin is a difference of civilisation. In West Berlin rise the sky-scrapers of the banks, like a monumental challenge to communism. In the east, with the exception of the monumental Stalin Allee, everybody lives in apartments of much the same quality: no rich and no poor ...

"In 1957 the economy of the GDR developed at a record speed: only the Soviet Union had such a rapid rate. Last year the industrial production of the GDR was two and a half times as high as in 1936, and it has passed the speed of development of West Germany. Taking industrial production in 1950 as 100, the GDR has now reached the figure of 230, and West Germany the figure of 211 ...

"Today the GDR produces as many wrist-watches as Britain and more typewriters, calculators and sewing machines than France. It exports its lathes, presses, optical goods and even pianos to 90 countries, including Britain and France ...

"The East German state is a reality, which has produced buildings, machines and men and women which cannot be blotted out except by world war. The young people fully appreciate all the advantages of the state, even if they are critical of the regime, particularly with regard to its cultural policy.

"All Germans know that the reunification of the country can only be the result of a very slow process, lasting perhaps ten years. The first stage will have to be a German Confederation, which has already been accepted, secretly, by British and American government circles, and also by the West German Social Democrats."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the past week or two I have had a number of letters from readers who were worried about reports which they have read in the western press about "nazis in prominent positions in East Germany." Several readers sent clippings from "Reynolds News" in London and the "New York Post" which made these charges.

In the past few years various bodies in the German Democratic Republic have published masses of documentary evidence that many branches of the West German administration are honeycombed with former nazis and war criminals — for instance, every single general of the West German Wehrmacht served in a responsible position in Hitler's Wehrmacht; at least 800 West German judges and public prosecutors served on nazi special courts and passed many death sentences; the vast majority of top Foreign Ministry officials were in Hitler's diplomatic service; and so on. Examples of this renazification process are printed in nearly every issue of this paper.

It is an undeniable fact that these charges have stuck: the West German Government has not been able to answer them. It is also an undeniable fact that with only a handful of exceptions, no action has been taken to remove these nazis from key public office. And it must be remembered that the men named were not simply nominal members of the Nazi Party; they were people who held responsible key positions under Hitler, and many of them can be proved to have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Since the West German authorities could not deny the truth of these charges, which they found were having a damaging effect on world public opinion, they took the course of accusing the German Democratic Republic of employing former nazis too. In March 1959 the West Berlin "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists", a cloak and dagger body financed by the West German authorities, published a pamphlet entitled "Former National Socialists in Pankow's Service" listing 150 persons who were described as former nazis today serving in high positions in the German Democratic Republic. This pamphlet formed the basis of various articles in the British and American press.

Now at this point we have to go back in history a little way. During the reign of Hitler, the Nazi Party had a total of over ten million members, and naturally quite a lot of these ex-members live today in the German Democratic Republic. Immediately after the end of the war all old nazis were removed from posts of responsibility, and any who could be shown to be guilty of crimes were imprisoned.

It was obviously impossible, however, to turn one-sixth of the population into permanent second-class citizens, and gradually the restrictions on the employment of ex-nazis were relaxed. It should not cause any surprise that quite a considerable number of them gradually came to realise the mistake they had made in the past, and decided to play their part in building up the German Democratic Republic, the first German state in history which has made a clean break with aggressive militarism and racialism.

These men and women, with the exception of course of persons who had been guilty of war crimes, were judged by their deeds, and many of them have developed today into useful members of society.

But let us get back to the West Berlin pamphlet. It claims that the ex-nazis listed today hold key posts in Democratic Germany, but a little investigation shows that these "key posts" are often nothing of the sort. They include, for instance, a professor of botany and a professor of theology at Greifwald University, a professor of pathology at Magdeburg, a scientific adviser to the Zeiss factory, a theatre director in Weimar, two film directors, the head of the central weights and measures department, and no fewer than 35 persons whose only claim to prominence is that they serve on town or district councils in various parts of the country. Since there are a total of 80,000 members on the various local councils, these ex-nazis do not present a very formidable contingent.

And once again, let me stress that these former members of the Nazi Party have all made recompense for their past mistakes by doing solid work for a better Germany. And perhaps this is a good place to mention that the overwhelming majority of people who are really in key posts today — cabinet members generals in the People's Army, police officers, etc., are men who have really outstanding records in the anti-nazi resistance movement. Such men and women, who suffered for ten or twelve years in nazi concentration camps, would not and do not work side-by-side with former Nazi Party members unless they are certain that they have genuinely changed their views.

Now back to the West Berlin pamphlet once again. After the not-so-key men have been excluded from the listing there still remain a number of former members of the Nazi Party who really are in fairly important posts.

There is, for example, Luitpold Steidle, a member of the People's Chamber, who was Minister of Health until last year. No secret has ever been made here of the fact that he was a colonel in the Wehrmacht, and member No. 2,675,123 of the Nazi Party. But, and it is a very big but, he was one those men who saw the error of his ways while Hitler was still very much in power; he was one of the founder members of the Free German Committee in Moscow in 1943, two years before Hitler was overthrown; he was sentenced to death in absentia by a nazi court, and did dangerous anti-nazi front-line work. I think that anyone would agree that he had very definitely "worked his passage", and the position is similar in the cases of nearly all the other former Nazi Party members mentioned in this West Berlin pamphlet.

There is one exception, however. This is the case of Ernst Grossmann, a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party. The West Berlin pamphlet shows a photograph of Herr Grossmann in the uniform of the SS, and his case was made much of in reports in the British and American press. Now the fact of the matter is that prior to the publication of the pamphlet it was unknown in Democratic Germany that he had been a member of the SS. Immediately after the pamphlet appeared a full investigation was made, and the results were made known on June 7th, when the official Socialist Unity Party newspaper "Neues Deutschland" published the following notice: "Ernst Grossmann has been strongly censured for making false statements about his past record, and has been expelled from the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party".

And if the West German authorities would take similar action to remove the thousands of men with far worse records serving in far more sensitive posts in the West German administration, there would be more hope of a bright future for Germany.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.